



2016

Veterans Benefits & Services

For Michigan Veterans Who Served in the Military

To better assist you, the veterans information listed in this booklet has been organized into 3 levels of available Veterans programs – **FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL.**

Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs web site at **www.va.gov**. For more state and local information, visit **www.michigan.gov**.

This booklet also provides valuable federal, state and local veteran contact information.

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature

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Dear Veteran

Thank You for Your Service . . .

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.

This booklet compiles material from federal, state, and local agencies for you, our veterans and your families, to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources – computer-based and professional – for answers to specific questions
- Assist in communicating more effectively with your elected representatives
- Educate state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve may be eligible for benefits.

Any Michigan veteran, or dependent of a veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or County Counselor. See page 39 for a listing of County Veterans Service Officers in Michigan and page 40 for the listing of Veterans Service Organizations.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can be reached at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or visit the website at **www.MichiganVeterans.com**. The Federal Regional VA Michigan Office Hotline is **1-800-827-1000**.

This booklet is intended as an introduction to the many programs and services available. Please contact the sources cited to assist you and your family to obtain benefits you have earned.

Thank you for your service.

Information on eligibility for military service benefits is available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan Department of Military Affairs or your County Veterans Service Office.



Education and Training

Education and Training – U.S. Federal Programs

Post-9/11 GI Bill

Eligibility: The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the service member or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Generally, service members or veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Eligibility for benefits lasts for 15 years from the point of eligibility.

Service members or veterans who are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill* – Selected Reserve or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program – and who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI bill, must select one or the other program. Generally, benefits cannot be collected under both programs.

Based on the length of active duty service, eligible participants may be entitled to receive between 40-100% of the following:

- (1) Cost of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and up to \$21,970.46 toward tuition and fees at private institutions, per year (paid directly to the school);
- (2) Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) equal to 50-100% of the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with

dependents, in the same zip code as the primary school (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependents);

- (3) The Monthly Housing Allowance for students enrolled exclusively in online programs whose Rate of Pursuit (ROP) is more than half-time, can receive an MHA up to \$805.50 per month;
- (4) Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent); and

- (5) A one-time payment of \$500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Additional assistance can be found at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp.

Transfer of Entitlement

The Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent

children. DoD and the military services must approve all requests for this benefit. Members of the Armed Forces approved for the Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) may only transfer any unused portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while on active duty, subject to their period of eligibility.

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program was enacted to potentially assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. To be eligible, the student must be: a veteran receiving benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child, or a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible spouse of a veteran.



The school of attendance must have accepted Veteran Affairs' (VA) invitation to participate in the program, state how much student tuition will be waived (up to 50%) and how many participants will be accepted into the program during the current academic year. VA will match the school's percentage (up to 50%) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants. See: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

This scholarship entitles children and surviving spouses of those who die in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Eligible children:

- are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level;
- have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday;
- may use the benefit until their 33rd birthday;
- are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Eligible spouses:

- can receive benefits for terms beginning on or after January 1, 2015;
- have 15 years after the servicemember's death to use the benefit;
- are no longer eligible if he/she remarries within the 15-year period.

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)

Children and spouses of veterans who died on active duty, or who became one hundred percent permanently disabled due to a service-related injury may qualify for educational benefits under the Survivors and Dependents Assistance (DEA) program. Beginning October 1, 2015, this benefit may pay up to \$1,021 per month to eligible children and spouses in approved full-time degree and non-degree educational programs. Benefits are also available for apprenticeship, on-the-job, farm cooperative, and special restorative training programs at lower rates.

Dependents are not eligible for both the Fry Scholarship and DEA based on the same event. Unless a parent died prior to August 1, 2011, the child will be required to elect benefits from only one program.

Legacy Educational Benefits

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides a program of educational benefits to honorably discharged veterans. The participant generally must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before beginning training. Completing a minimum of 12 credit hours toward a college degree meets this requirement. Credits granted by colleges for life experiences may be used to meet this requirement.

Basic eligibility applies to veterans who entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. Active duty includes certain full-time Reserve and National Guard duty performed after June 30, 1985. To participate in the MGIB, service members have their military pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of active duty. This money is not refundable.

Individuals who had remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill when that program ended on December 31, 1989, must have served on active duty for any number of days during the period October 19, 1984, to June 30, 1985; or served on active duty for at least three continuous years beginning on July 1, 1985; or served at least two years active duty beginning after June 30, 1985, followed by a minimum of four years in the Selected Reserve. Those who were not on active duty on October 19, 1984, if they served three continuous years on active duty at any time beginning on or after July 1, 1985, or two continuous years of active duty at any time followed by four continuous years in the Selected Reserve, may also be eligible for MGIB benefits.

Veterans who qualify for Active Duty (MGIB-AD – Chapter 30) benefits under MGIB can receive up to \$1,789 per month for full-time pursuit of an educational program, effective October 1, 2015. This stipend may be increased if the vet participated in the \$600 "buy up" program. MGIB payments are made directly to the vet, irrespective of the tuition and fees charged by the school.

MGIB benefits do not include stipends for housing (MHA) or for books and supplies. Benefits are also available for flight, apprenticeship, cooperative or on-the-job training.

Individuals who were participants under the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) may be eligible if they served on active duty on October 9, 1996, participated in VEAP and contributed money to a VEAP account, and elected MGIB by October 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996, may also be eligible even if they did not deposit money in a VEAP account if they served on active duty from October 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed \$2,700 to MGIB. Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard between June 30, 1985 and November 29, 1989, elected to have National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the nine-month window ending on July 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200.

Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at **1-888-442-4551** for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on the VA's Education Services website at **www.benefits.va.gov/gibill**.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating from VA may qualify for education and training benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program (Chapter 31). The focus of this program is on employment preparation, placement and retention, but it can also include financial support for education and training expenses as part of a veteran's rehabilitation plan. An application and details about the program are available on the VR&E website: **www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp**.

VetSuccess on Campus

This program is designed to provide on-campus benefits assistance and readjustment

counseling to veterans completing their college educations and entering the labor market in viable careers. An experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support, and assistance to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

Current Michigan locations include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw Community College.

VA Work-Study Program

The VA Work-Study Program allows veterans to earn additional income while attending school under certain programs (usually in the form of a part-time job with a veteran-related organization). Talk to your local veterans affairs representative at any university or community college. Veterans with specific questions may call the GI Bill Hotline: **1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)** between 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday. Veterans may also visit **www.benefits.va.gov/gibill** for guidance on benefits and on selecting a school and career.

Federal Pell Grant Program

The federal government is a source for education grants. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

Pell Grant Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula established by Congress to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families' federal tax returns.

Award Amount

The amount of the Pell Grant depends on the student's EFC and several other factors, including program funding. The maximum award for the 2015-2016 school year is \$5,775. For more information, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

How and When to Apply

Students apply not only for Pell Grants, but for all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs (except scholarships) by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA form is available from high school guidance offices, or the application can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be aware of the application deadlines for submission and corrections.

Education and Training – State of Michigan Programs

Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights responds to and advocates on behalf of Michigan's 1.3 million people with disabilities. This is done through information and technical assistance, disability rights training, working with the Michigan Business Leaders Network on employment for people with disabilities, coordinating the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, and conducting disability awareness and sensitivity training. The Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing deals with issues involving Michigan citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their mission is to provide statewide leadership to empower and integrate people with disabilities into all aspects of society. For more information, contact:

Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

Cadillac Place
3054 W. Grand Boulevard
Suite 3-600
Detroit, MI 48202
VP: **313-437-7035**
Toll-Free Voice/TTY: **1-877-499-6232**
Fax: **517-241-3963**
E-Mail: DODDBHH@michigan.gov

Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans

Tuition Grant Program

The **Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)** was established under Public Act 248 of 2005 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years for a total of up to \$11,200. Awards are for an academic year with the amount determined by the student's enrollment status. Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of \$2,800 per academic year. Information on eligibility and application forms are available at: www.michigan.gov/ssg, select "programs." Toll-Free: **1-888-447-2687**.



Employment

Employment – U.S. Federal Programs

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was established to meet the needs of separating service members during their transition into civilian life. The program has been recently redesigned by the Department of Defense in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs and other partnering agencies to better prepare service members for the challenges of civilian life. Known as Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success), the program provides comprehensive services to our nation's service members and their spouses providing briefings that focus on education, benefits, VA health care disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and employment benefits. A companion workshop for disabled veterans is also available. Participation is mandatory for separating service members.

A TAP virtual curriculum is available to service members who are unable to attend the TAP in person due to military exigencies with the ability to fulfill their TAP obligations.

Additional information can be found at: www.benefits.va.gov/vow/tap.asp, www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap, and www.taonline.com/tapoffice. Use www.acinet.org/acinet/moc to translate military occupations to civilian counterparts.

Verification of Military Experience and Training

The Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) website is designed to provide separating service members access to their Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) documents and completed Transition GPS Sessions. VMET documents help service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers,

negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement. For assistance, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps.

Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served on active duty during specified times, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs when hiring is from competitive lists of eligible candidates.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. Individuals interested in federal information should visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website at www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/index.aspx. Federal job opportunities can be found at www.usajobs.gov.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides educational and vocational counseling to service members, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These counseling services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational direction, determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal, and evaluate the career possibilities open to them.

Eligibility

Educational and vocational counseling services are available during the period the individual is on active duty with the armed forces and within 180 days of the estimated date of his or her discharge or release from active duty. The projected discharge must be under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans are eligible if not more than one year has elapsed since the date they were last discharged or released from active duty.

For more information, visit
www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre.

Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services

Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES) is an employment program aimed at helping job-ready veterans exiting homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness gain stable and long-term employment. Community Employment Coordinators work with local employers to identify suitable jobs based on a veteran's skills and abilities. Community Employment Coordinators work out of VA Medical Centers and are responsible for connecting homeless and at-risk veterans to appropriate VA and community-based employment services. For assistance in finding a Community Employment Coordinator in Michigan, visit **www.va.gov/homeless/cec-contacts.asp**.

Re-Employment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

To be re-employed, four requirements must be met:

- The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer;
- The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions);
- The person must submit a timely application for re-employment; and

- The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Applications for re-employment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining re-employment, the employee should contact the **Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)** in the employer's state. This applies to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service. For assistance, visit **www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/main.htm**.

Veterans Economic Communities Initiative

The VA's **Veterans Economic Communities Initiative (VECI)** has been created to help veterans and their families find meaningful employment and education opportunities. VECI has launched in 50 communities across the country to create networks of institutions and organizations that will serve veterans.

Twenty-seven Learning Hubs, also part of the VECI, have been established in 27 cities nationwide. Veterans can take advantage of classroom and online learning. More information about VECI and Learning Hubs can be obtained by contacting **VeteranEmployment.vbaco@va.gov**.

MyVA Community

MyVA Community brings together veteran advocates, service providers, veterans, and stakeholders to identify goals and resolve issues at the local level to improve service delivery for

veterans. In Michigan, the Region 4 (West Michigan), 8 (Southwest Michigan), and 9 (Ann Arbor) veterans community action teams are the framework for your MyVA Community. Contact information for these engagement boards can be found at: **www.va.gov/nace/myVA/state.asp?State=MI&dnum=ALL**.

Employment – State of Michigan Programs

Pure Michigan Talent Connect

Michigan has recreated its labor exchange system under Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Talent Connect includes an online Talent Marketplace where job seekers can connect to job opportunities, education, and training and employers can connect to qualified talent. Talent Connect includes specific assistance for veterans to make a successful transition from military to civilian employment.

Written and video tutorials are available to help job seekers navigate Talent Connect. In addition, accounts previously registered under the Michigan Talent Bank have been transferred to Talent Connect.

Pure Michigan Talent Connect: **www.mitalent.org**
Customer Service Center: **1-888-522-0103**

Occupational Licensing

Several state statutes have been recently revised to allow the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to consider experience received in the military to be counted toward qualifications required for certain occupational licenses such as electrician and plumber. In addition, a number of license application fees have been waived for veterans with an honorable discharge.

Specific information for veterans can be found at: **www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573_68470--,00.html**.

Workforce Development Agency

The Workforce Development Agency's Veterans Services Division provides program-

specific services with eligibility requirements as defined by federal law. A host of intensive services are available to eligible veterans and spouses who are unable to obtain employment through the core services provided by Michigan Works! Service Centers.

For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, contact your local **Michigan Works! Service Center**.

Michigan Works! Agency
1-800-285-WORK
www.michiganworks.org



Unemployment Compensation

Veterans who do not begin civilian employment immediately after leaving military service may receive weekly unemployment compensation for a limited time. Veterans attending school full-time may also be eligible for unemployment. Contact Michigan Works! for more information.

How to File Your Claim

By Internet: To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the Internet, visit **www.michigan.gov/uia**.

By Phone: To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone number, call **1-866-500-0017** using a touch-tone telephone. TTY callers may use **1-866-366-0004**.

You can also sign up for unemployment benefits by visiting any of the Michigan Works! offices and using one of the computer stations. Michigan Works! Employees or Veterans Employment Representatives are available to give you additional help if you need it.

In many cases, once you have signed up for unemployment benefits, you will also need to register for work with the Michigan Works! Agency. You may enter or update your resume on the Internet at **www.mitalent.org**.

Information Needed to File a Claim: To file a claim, you will need your Social Security number, your driver's license number or state identification number or your MARVIN PIN (if you

have one), a copy of your DD-214, and the names and addresses of employers you have worked for in the past 18 months, your quarterly gross earnings, the first and last dates of employment with each employer and your date of birth. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you will need your Alien Registration Number and the expiration date of your work authorization.

If you have general questions about unemployment benefits, or if you have a question about your Claims by Mail application, call the **Telephone File Claim** at **1-866-500-0017** weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Re-Employment Rights for Veterans

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature strengthened the Michigan law regarding re-employment of employees after military service (MCL 32.273). The act prioritized the employment positions in which a person would be re-employed following active service. The act specifies that the person is entitled to the seniority and the seniority-based rights and benefits he or she would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to re-employment under the law. State re-employment rights, when enhanced or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law.

For more information, please call the Veterans Hotline **1-800-642-4838**.



Veterans Preference for State Jobs

The **Michigan Civil Service Commission** has information on state jobs. The Civil Service Commission provides for a veterans hiring preference for Michigan state classified service through rules adopted by the commission. (Rule 3-8 provides for a preference for an eligible veteran or spouse of a veteran.)

A qualifying veteran, including retirees, and/or spouse must register with the Department of Civil Service using form CS-1791, and include the required documentation.

For more information, call **517-335-0308** or visit **www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/Veterans_Preference_382044_7.pdf**.

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Veterans with disabilities should also look into the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Services may be available to supplement VA allowances for vocational rehabilitation in cases of special need or for vocational rehabilitation, guidance, and counseling. Employment services may also be available to veterans whose disabilities are not service-related.

For more information:

Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**

TTY: **Dial 711 and provide toll-free number**
www.michigan.gov/mrs

Service-Disabled Veteran Business Owners

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for a 10% pricing preference when bidding for certain state **government purchase contracts** under MCL 18.1261 and for certain state **construction contracts** under MCL 18.1241.

For more information, contact **517-284-7023** or **517-284-7014**.

Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

This website lists sponsored apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored and operated on a voluntary basis by individual employers, employer associations, or partnerships between employers and labor unions.

Visit **www.doleta.gov/oa**.

Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Most career opportunities offered by the program are connected to federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. Such training is provided by the trade organizations themselves at no cost to the veteran. No prior experience is needed. All participating trade organizations conduct three-to five-year earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs. Because these apprenticeship programs are regulated and approved at both federal and state levels, veterans can utilize their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while they are learning valuable skills and on-the-job training.

Visit **www.helmetstohardhats.org**.



Troops to Teachers

The Michigan Troops to Teachers program provides advisory services to eligible veterans to transition to a new career as classroom teachers in K-12 public schools. The Troops to Teachers Program is available to:

- Military retirees,
- Members on active duty who are within one year of their retirement date,
- Members of the National Guard and Selective Reserves with ten or more years of creditable service,
- Members transitioning from active duty with at least six years of active duty and who commit for three years of service in the National Guard or Selective Reserves,
- Members separated due to physical disability after January 8, 2002. Must register within 4 years of separation.

Counseling assistance related to teacher certification requirements and limited job placement assistance is provided. Financial support is also offered to certain eligible participants.

The Troops to Teachers Programs are not certification programs nor employment agencies. Each state has authority over certification requirements and, usually, each district has authority over the selection and employment process. Therefore, each participant must complete the certification requirements for the state in which they desire to teach, and then apply for a teaching position as would any other teacher. Each state office provides information regarding certification requirements, teacher preparation programs leading to certification, and assistance in identifying teaching positions.

For more information, contact the **Troops to Teachers** program at:

Phone: **517-373-9732**

Toll-Free: **1-866-801-0007**

www.michigan.gov/TroopstoTeachers



Health Care

Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U.S. Federal Programs

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment.

To apply, complete VA Form 1010EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, and online at www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply, or by calling **1-877-222-VETS (8387)**. Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

If you have questions about your health care eligibility, call your nearest health care facility or the **Health Benefits Service Center** at **1-877-222-8387** to obtain the latest information.

Basic Eligibility

If you served in the active military service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health benefits as well.

Most veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or “early out,” or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all veterans to apply so that it may determine their enrollment eligibility.

Enhanced Eligibility

Certain veterans may be afforded enhanced eligibility status if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Costs Overview

Many veterans qualify for cost-free health care services based on a compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factors. Other veterans may be required to pay a copay for treatment of their nonservice-connection conditions. While some veterans qualify for free health care based on certain eligibilities, most veterans will be required to complete a financial assessment at the time of enrollment to determine whether they are eligible for enrollment and for free health care services. If the veteran’s gross household income (including spouse and dependents, if applicable) exceeds the VA income limits, the veteran may be required to pay a copay for health care services.

Services Requiring Copays

While many veterans qualify for free health care services based on a VA compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factor, most veterans are asked to complete an annual financial assessment to determine if they qualify for free services. Veterans whose income exceeds the established VA Income Thresholds as well as those who choose not to complete the financial assessment must agree to pay required copays to become eligible for VA health care services.

Copays include:

- Inpatient care for veterans requires copays depending on income and service-connected disability status.
- Extended-care copays are based on level of care: \$5 per day for domiciliary; \$15 per day for outpatient; and \$97 for inpatient.

- Medication usually requires an \$8 or \$9 copay for each 30-day supply or less of medication provided by VA for a condition that is not service-connected. A maximum annual copay of \$960 is currently charged for medications.
- Outpatient care:
Primary Care Services: \$15
Specialty Care Services: \$50

Some veterans qualify for free health care and/or prescriptions based on special eligibility factors. In addition, some services are exempt from inpatient and outpatient copays. Please see www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/cost/copays.asp for additional information on copays.

Choice Program

VA Choice Program allows eligible veterans to receive health care within their community. To be eligible, a veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat veteran within 5 years of separation. Additionally, a veteran must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The veteran has been or will be waiting more than 30 days for medical care.
- The veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA health care facility or the veteran faces one of several excessive travel burdens.

For more information or to determine your eligibility, please call: **1-866-606-8198**.

Overseas Benefits

VA will reimburse for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions for veterans living or traveling outside the United States. All veterans living or planning to travel outside the U.S. should register with the:

VA Foreign Medical Program Office

P.O. Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061, USA
Phone: **303-331-7590**

Veterans may also register by email at IRIS.va.gov.

Online Health Services

VA offers veterans, service members, their dependents and caregivers their own personal health record through My HealtheVet, found at www.myhealth.va.gov.

My HealtheVet's free, online Personal Health Record is available 24/7, with internet access. Those with an upgraded account (obtained by completing the one-time In-Person Authentication process) can:

- Participate in secure messaging with VA health care team members;
- View key portions of DoD military service information;
- Get VA wellness reminders;
- View VA appointments;
- View VA lab results;
- View VA allergies and adverse reactions;
- View their VA Comprehensive Care Document.

With My HealtheVet, veterans can access trusted health information to better manage personal health care and learn about other VA benefits and services.

Caregiver Programs and Services

VA has long advocated for caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by America's veterans and service members. Each VA medical center houses a designated caregiver support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families and VA providers. Several programs are available for all veteran caregivers including:

- **Caregiver Support Line**
1-855-260-3274
- Home Telehealth;
- Caregiver Support Coordinator;
- In-Home and Community-Based Care;
- Respite Care;
- Caregiver Education and Training Programs;
- Family Support Services;
- Travel.

On May 5, 2010, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 was signed into law to provide unprecedented benefits to eligible caregivers who support the veterans who have given so much for this Nation. Support provided to this group includes a monthly stipend, travel and lodging while accompanying veterans undergoing care, mental health services and counseling, and caregiver training.

The VA also provides durable medical equipment and prosthetic and sensory aides to improve function, financial assistance with home modifications to improve access and mobility, and transportation assistance for some veterans to and from medical appointments.

For more information, visit www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp.

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTP) (including Domiciliary RRTPs) provides residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs which can be medical, psychiatric, substance use, homelessness, vocational, educational, or social.

The MH RRTP provides a 24-hour therapeutic setting utilizing a peer and professional support environment. The programs help veterans work on improving their quality of life, maintaining their health, and participating in their communities. Evidence-based treatment for mental illness, including PTSD and substance use disorders, is provided. There are several types of MH RRTPs. Call your nearest benefits office or health care facility for additional information.

Medication

Copays are required for many medications. Veterans with a nonservice-connected condition in Priority Groups 7 and 8 are charged \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an out-patient basis. Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 2 through 5 are charged \$8 for each 30-day or less supply of medication. The maximum annual copay charged for nonservice-connected medications is \$960.



Other veterans are exempt from medication copays including veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more; veterans receiving medication for service-connected conditions; veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of the VA pension; veterans who are determined to be Catastrophically Disabled; veterans receiving medication for conditions related to sexual trauma related to service on active duty; certain veterans receiving medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck; veterans receiving medication for a VA-approved research project; and former POWs.

Outpatient Dental Treatment

Outpatient dental benefits are provided by the VA according to law. Dental care is categorized in classes and, in some cases, treatment may be limited. The following veterans may receive care:

- have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition;
- are a former prisoner of war;
- have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable due to service-connected conditions;
- are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program;
- those who apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release (under conditions other than dishonorable) from a period of active duty of 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era;
- have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma;
- have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be currently aggravating a service-connected medical condition;

- are receiving outpatient care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment; and
- certain veterans enrolled in the VA Homeless Program for 60 consecutive days or more.

For more information, call the **VA Health Center** toll-free at **1-877-222-8387**.

For veterans who are not eligible for VA dental care, coverage can be purchased through the national VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) at a reduced cost. Purchasing a dental plan does not affect a veteran's eligibility for VA dental services and treatment. Applications for VADIP can be completed online, over the phone, or by mail. Visit **www.va.gov/healthbenefits/VADIP** or contact Delta Dental at **1-855-460-3302** or MetLife at **1-888-310-1681** for more information.

Nursing Home Care

VA provides nursing home services to veterans through three national programs: VA-owned and -operated Community Living Centers (CLC), State Veterans' Homes owned and operated by the states, and the community nursing home program. Each program has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the program. Nursing home care is available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home care for a service-connected disability, or veterans with a 70 percent or greater service-connected disability, and veterans with a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability. VA-provided nursing home care for all other veterans is based on available resources.

Readjustment Counseling

Veterans may need help after they return home from war. Friends and family who have not shared similar experiences may be unable to understand how they can help. There are resources that veterans have available to help cope with the impact of war once back home. Families who have lost loved ones in the military may also experience grief beyond their ability to cope with alone. Help is available for these family members as well.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides readjustment counseling services through community-based Vet Centers. This counseling is designed to help combat veterans readjust to civilian life.

Veterans are eligible for readjustment counseling if they served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon. Also eligible are veterans who provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to the casualties of war while on active military service, those who experienced military sexual trauma, and those who served as a member of an unmanned aerial vehicle crew providing direct support to operations in a combat zone. Veterans who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era, but not in the Republic of Vietnam, must have requested services at a Vet Center before January 1, 2004. Vet Centers do not require enrollment in the VHA Health Care System.

Contact the nearest **Vet Center** (see pages 17-18) or visit **www.vetcenter.va.gov** for assistance or call **877-927-8387**.

Other Counseling Services

Vet Center Combat Call Center (1-877-WAR-VETS) is an around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat veterans from several eras as well as family members of combat veterans.

Bereavement Counseling is available to all immediate family members including spouses, children, parents, and siblings of service members who died while on active duty. Information is available by calling **(202) 461-6530**.

Other Health Services

VA health care includes a number of other services including prosthetic and sensory aids, assistive equipment, respiratory therapy, artificial

limbs, therapeutic shoes, and other durable medical equipment. Benefits are also available for veterans approved for a guide or service dog including veterinary care and equipment. Biological children of veterans with qualifying service in the Republic of South Vietnam or Republic of Korea with spina bifida or certain other birth defects may be eligible for various VA benefits. Also, the VA provides assistance for those veterans suffering from problems related to substance use and abuse, from unhealthy use of alcohol to life-threatening addictions. Additional information is available at www.va.gov/health.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, the condition known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people will have stress reactions that do not go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person's daily life.

PTSD is marked by clear biological changes as well as psychological symptoms. PTSD is complicated by the fact that it frequently occurs in conjunction with related disorders such as depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition, and other problems of physical and mental health. The disorder is also associated with impairment of the person's ability to function in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems and divorces, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

Eleven to 30 percent of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience

PTSD. An additional 20 to 25 percent have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives. More than half of all male Vietnam veterans and almost half of all female Vietnam veterans have experienced "clinically serious stress reaction symptoms." PTSD has also been diagnosed among veterans of the Gulf War, with some estimates running as high as 12 percent. An estimated 11-20% of veterans from the operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year.

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder website is www.ptsd.va.gov.

If you are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran who wants to learn more about Post-Traumatic Stress, you may call your nearest VA medical facility (see page 23) or contact one of the **Michigan Vet Centers** listed below:

Dearborn Vet Center

19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W
Dearborn, MI 48124
313-277-1428

Detroit Vet Center

11214 E. Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48214
313-822-1141

Escanaba Vet Center

3500 Ludington Street, Suite 110
Escanaba, MI 49829
906-233-0244

Grand Rapids Vet Center

2050 Breton Road, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-285-5795

Macomb County Vet Center

42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105
Clinton Township, MI 48038
586-412-0107

Pontiac Vet Center

44200 Woodward Avenue, Suite 108
Pontiac, MI 48341
248-874-1015

Saginaw Vet Center

5360 Hampton Place
Saginaw, MI 48604
989-321-4650

Traverse City Vet Center

3766 N. US-31 South
Traverse City, MI 49684
231-935-0051

PTSD Coach

PTSD Coach is a mobile application that provides information about PTSD, self-assessment and symptom management tools and resources available for help in dealing with post trauma effects.

Several other apps are also available including PTSD Family Coach, Mindfulness Coach, CPT (Cognitive Processing Therapy) Coach, and PE (Prolonged Exposure) Coach. To learn more about each app or to download, visit **www.ptsd.va.gov/public/materials/apps/index.asp**.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury caused by direct or indirect involvement with an improvised explosive device (IED), attacks by mortars, grenades, bullets, car accidents, or falls.

It is sometimes called the invisible wound because the injury can be sustained without visible external wounds. The extent of damage from TBI might not be realized until after the soldier, Marine, airman, or sailor is back home. Further, the symptoms may not be recognized as TBI and may even be confused with PTSD.

The **Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI)** provides specialized residential care and rehabilitation to eligible veterans with TBI. Eligible veterans are placed in private sector care facilities and receive rehabilitation in areas such as speech, memory, and mobility. The program is effective through October 2017. To be eligible for the AL-TBI program veterans must be enrolled in VA care, have received hospital care or medical services provided by the VA for TBI, and be unable to manage two or more routine or instrumental activities of daily living without supervision and assistance. Veterans and families interested in more information should contact the VA Case Manager at their local VA medical center.

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. In 2007, BIAMI created a Veteran's Program to specifically help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI.

Contact **1-800-444-6443** or **www.biami.org**.
The Michigan TBI website is **www.michigan.gov/tbi**

Coaching Into Care

Coaching Into Care provides a "coaching" service for family and friends of veterans who become aware of a veteran's post-deployment difficulties and need assistance in finding help for the veteran. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate the veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community. All calls are confidential, except for cases in which the lives of the caller, the veteran, or others may be in danger.

Military Exposures

VA offers health care benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. These services include health registry evaluations and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center.

Gulf War, Depleted Uranium, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation Registry Programs

VA has developed databases called registries to help analyze health conditions of veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. These health registries track and monitor the health of specific groups of veterans, including the Agent Orange Registry; Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; Gulf War Registry (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn); Ionizing Radiation Registry; Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program; and Embedded Fragment Registry.

Agent Orange, Radiation, Depleted Uranium, and Gulf War Exposures

A veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. Fourteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such veterans.

A new regulation published in June of 2015 expands the eligibility for benefits related to presumed exposure to Agent Orange to a select group of Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who may have had regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that was used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand. Eligible personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions presumed by VA to be service-connected can receive benefits. As many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members for the affected aircraft may have been exposed to the herbicide.

Veterans who participated in “radiation risk activities” as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service-connected. Those who may be eligible include individuals with on-site participation in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device, participation in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from August 6, 1945 to July 1, 1946, internment as a prisoner of war in Japan during World War II, or recipients of nose and throat radium irradiation treatments while in the active military. Individuals who were involved in certain activities at the Department of Energy gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio, or the K25 area at Oak Ridge, Tennessee for at least 250 days prior to February 1, 1992 as well as certain tests at Amchitka Island, Alaska prior to January 1, 1974 may also be eligible.

Conditions presumed to be service-connected include: all forms of leukemia (except for chronic

lymphocytic leukemia); several cancers; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender and family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non-service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War veterans with chronic disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War period of August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2016. This theater of operations includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

To learn more about VA health registries and military exposures, please contact VA Health Care at **1-877-222-8387** or online at:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/health-care.asp

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program provides funding for eligible veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability

access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Home improvement benefits up to \$6,800 for service-connected reasons and up to \$2,000 for nonservice-connected reasons may be provided. For application information, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic (see page 23).

Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan

Michigan Veterans Homes

A unit of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the **Grand Rapids Home for Veterans** provides physician care; skilled nursing care services; social work care; nutritional care; physical, occupational, speech, and rehabilitation therapy programs; and programs for Alzheimer's and special needs care for qualified disabled veterans.

A second veterans home, the **D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**, is located in Marquette. This Upper Peninsula home provides physician coverage for a variety of services as well as additional services on a fee-for-service basis. The home has a domiciliary unit, skilled nursing care, basic nursing care, and a special needs unit for qualified disabled veterans. For information on eligibility, enrollment procedures and life at the homes, contact the **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency** at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or visit the website at **www.MichiganVeterans.com**.

Veterans Ombudsman

An ombudsman has been established within the Michigan Legislature by PA 198 of 2016. The Veterans Ombudsman will investigate complaints filed by residents of the veterans homes or their family members. To file a complaint or to learn more about how the Ombudsman can be of assistance, call **517-373-1347**.

Veterans Treatment Court

PA 335 of 2012 was enacted to create a **Veterans Treatment Court** program that addresses the need to better support Michigan

veterans and assist them with their transition to civilian life. Veterans treatment court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles. The courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families. To be eligible to participate in veterans treatment court, a veteran cannot be charged with a violent offense. He or she must complete a confidential preadmissions screening and evaluation assessment. Seventeen district and 5 circuit courts have established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law.

Homeless Veterans

VA provides comprehensive medical, psychological, and rehabilitation treatment for eligible homeless veterans. Health care services, including mental health services, are available for homeless vets at many VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, and vet centers.

Stand Down events are another way VA reaches homeless veterans to provide food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling, and referrals. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events and are held in numerous cities throughout the year.

The **VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program** provides a gateway to VA and community supportive services for eligible veterans. The program conducts outreach to homeless veterans and provides case management and residential treatment in the community. Michigan's HCHV contact can be reached at **1-313-576-1000**, ext. **64602**.

The **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)** assists homeless veterans, at-risk veterans, their families and other

interested parties with access to appropriate VA and community-based resources. The call center provides trained VA staff members 24 hours a day, seven days a week that assess a caller's needs and connect them to appropriate resources. The call center can be reached at **1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)**.

The **Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program** provides permanent housing and ongoing case management for eligible homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. These services may be accessed at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics.

Through the **Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans Program**, VA aims to improve very low-income veteran families' housing stability by providing supportive services to families in or transitioning to permanent housing. VA funds community-based organizations to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. For assistance call **1-877-4-AID-VET**.

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) provides veterans with realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities, encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level. An individual rehabilitation plan is developed for each veteran allowing veterans to work for pay, learn new job skills, and relearn successful work habits. The **Transitional Residence (TR)** Program provides a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. TR provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful reintegration. Veterans interested in learning more about CWT can call **1-800-929-7690 ext. 5335** or **757-722-9961 ext. 1123** for information on the TR program.

The **Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program** offers outreach, referrals and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. A guidebook

for incarcerated vets in Michigan is available at **www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/reentry/15_mi.pdf**. Michigan's reentry specialist can be reached at **734-645-2505**, or visit **www.va.gov/homeless** to find contact information on VA homeless veteran coordinators in each state.

Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans

If you are in immediate need of shelter, please call the **Homeless Shelter Hotline** at **1-800-A-SHELTER (1-800-274-3583)**. They will arrange for a temporary emergency shelter or motel stay.

Veterans Housing Program – Volunteers of America

Volunteers of America Michigan is the largest contract provider of veterans services in the Lansing region. Volunteers of America Michigan operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men and a 14-bed overnight emergency shelter for women and children in the Lansing area.

In addition, Volunteers of America Michigan operates three programs for homeless veterans: the Veterans Dormitory Program is a 16-bed program available to male and female veterans. Residents can stay for up to 6 months free of charge if weekly progress is made on their Treatment Plan. The Veterans Housing Program provides longer-term transitional housing for veterans including those with substance-related disorders and/or mental illness (located in Lansing and Niles). The Veterans Reintegration Program assists homeless veterans to gain and maintain gainful employment. Current locations include Lansing, Detroit, and Flint.

For additional information, please contact:
877-509-8387

www.voami.org/veterans

Lansing Shelter System

Program Coordinator
430 N. Larch Street
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: **517-484-4414**
Toll-Free: **1-877-509-8387**

**Michigan Volunteers of America,
Michigan Housing Department**
21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: **248-945-0101**

Additional Resources

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

15851 S. Old US-27, Building 30, Suite 315
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: **517-485-6536**
Fax: **517-485-6682**
E-mail: **mcah@mihomeless.org**
www.mihomeless.org



Women Veterans Health Care

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to advise and advocate for women veterans. She can help coordinate all services needed, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

Woman veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive services, menopause management, and cancer screenings, including pap smear and mammograms, and gynecology. Maternity care is covered in the Medical Benefits package. Women veterans receive maternity care from an OB/GYN, and care for their newborn children is covered for seven days after birth. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments are also available.

For more information:

Women Veterans Call Center

Toll-Free: **1-855-829-6636** or
www.womenshealth.va.gov



Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics

Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

Alpena

180 N. State Avenue 49707
989-356-8720

Ann Arbor

2215 Fuller Road 48105
734-769-7100

Bad Axe

1142 S. Van Dyke Road,
Suite 100 48413
989-269-7445

Battle Creek

5500 Armstrong Road 49037
269-966-5600

Benton Harbor

115 Main Street 49022
269-934-9123

Cadillac

1909 N. Mitchell Street 49601
231-775-4401

Clare

11775 N. Isabella Road 48617
989-386-8113

Detroit

4646 John R Street 48201
313-576-1000

Flint

G-2360 S. Linden Road 48532
810-720-2913

Gaylord

806 South Otsego 49732
989-732-7525

Grand Rapids

2050 Breton, S.E. 49546
616-285-5795

Grayling

1680 Hartwick Pines Road 49738
989-344-2002

Hancock

787 Market Street
Suite 9 49930-1495
906-482-7762

Iron Mountain

325 East H Street 49801
906-774-3300

Ironwood

629 W. Cloverland Drive
Suite 1 49938
906-932-0032

Lansing

2025 S. Washington 48910
517-267-3925

Mackinaw City

14540 Mackinaw Highway 49701
231-436-5176

Manistique

813 E. Lakeshore Drive 49854
906-341-3420

Marquette

1414 W. Fair Avenue
Suite 285 49855
906-226-4618

Menominee

1110 10th Avenue
Suite 101 49858
906-863-1286

Michigan Center (Jackson)

4328 Page Avenue 49254
517-764-3609

Muskegon

5000 Hakes Drive 49441
231-798-4445

Oscoda

5671 Skeel Avenue
Suite 4 48750
989-747-0026

Pontiac

44200 Woodward Avenue
Suite 208 48341
248-332-4540

Saginaw Health care Annex

4241 Barnard Road 48603
800-406-5143, ext. 11230

Saginaw Medical Center

1500 Weiss Street 48602
989-497-2500

Sault Ste. Marie

509 Osborn Boulevard
Suite 306 49783
906-253-9383

Traverse City

3271 Racquet Club Drive 49684
989-497-2500, ext. 11412

Wyoming

5838 Metro Way 49519
616-249-5300

Yale

7470 Brockway Drive 48097
810-387-3211

The State of Michigan operates two veterans homes at the following locations:

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

3000 Monroe Avenue, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-364-5389 • 1-844-711-7986

D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans

425 Fisher
Marquette, MI 49855
906-226-3576 • 1-800-433-6760

Monetary Benefits

eBenefits

Through eBenefits veterans can apply for benefits, view their disability compensation claim status, access official military personnel documents (e.g., DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan Certificate of Eligibility, and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. New features are added regularly.

The National Resource Directory is part of the eBenefits site. This directory provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration for the wounded warrior. The NRD includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits such as disability benefits, pensions for veterans and their families, VA health care insurance and the GI Bill. eBenefits is accessed at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. Veterans must register for an eBenefits account at one of two levels: Basic or Premium. A Premium account allows the user to access personal data in VA and DoD systems, as well as apply for benefits online, check the status of claims, update address records, and more. The Basic account allows access to information entered into eBenefits by the veteran only. Basic accounts cannot access VA or DoD systems.

To register for an eBenefits account, veterans must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DoD Self Service (DS) Logon (user name and password). Note: For those without a DEERS record, VA will first need to verify military service and add the information to DEERS. This is most likely for veterans who served prior to 1982. Individuals should contact a VA regional office for assistance in being added to DEERS.

Identity verification: Many veterans will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. A few may need to visit a VA regional office or TRICARE Service Center to have their identities verified.

Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling **1-800-827-1000** and selecting option 7. eBenefits users with Premium access with appropriate My HealtheVet access can login to their My HealtheVet account using the single sign-on feature.

VA Disability Compensation

VA disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

Veterans with disability ratings between 30 percent and 100 percent are eligible for additional allowances for a spouse and for each minor child, 18-23 years of age attending school, child if disabled before 18 years of age, and dependent parent. The amount depends on the disability rating.

VA offers two methods for receiving disability benefit payments. Most veterans receive their

2016 VA Disability Compensation (no dependents)

Disability Percentage	Monthly Payment
10 percent	\$ 133.17
20 percent	263.23
30 percent	407.75
40 percent	587.36
50 percent	863.13
60 percent	1,059.09
70 percent	1,334.71
80 percent	1,551.48
90 percent	1,743.48
100 percent	2,906.83

disability benefit payments by direct deposit to a bank, savings and loan or credit union account. Veterans also have the option of receiving their benefits via a prepaid debit card, even if they do not have a bank account. There

is no credit check, no minimum balance required, and basic services are free.

To sign up for the **Debit Card Program**, call **1-800-333-1795**.

Pensions

Pension benefits are available to certain veterans based on need. To be eligible for pension benefits, a veteran must be 65 or older with limited or no income, or totally and permanently disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or receiving social security disability insurance or supplemental security income. In addition, service requirements also apply. Veterans must have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. (Veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after October 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty.) The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes. For more information, visit **www.benefits.va.gov/pension**.

Social Security Benefits

Social Security provides expedited processing of disability claims for disabled veterans.

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare's hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease).

Those 65 or older and those who are blind or otherwise disabled may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments if they have little or no income or resources. States

may supplement the federal payments to eligible persons and may disregard additional income.

Upon the veteran's death, a one-time payment of \$255 also may be made to the veteran's spouse or child.

For more information, call **1-800-772-1213** or visit **www.socialsecurity.gov**.

Additional Monetary Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides military retirees a monthly compensation that is intended to replace some or all of their retired pay that is withheld due to receipt of VA compensation.

Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes.

CRSC is not a VA program. For information, call **1-800-321-1080** or contact your parent military service branch:

Army 1-888-281-3254

www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC

or e-mail at **askhrc.army@us.army.mil**

Navy/Marine Corps 1-877-366-2772

www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/

or e-mail at **CRSC@navy.mil**

Air Force 1-800-525-0102, option 5, option 1

www.retirees.af.mil/

or e-mail at **afpc.retiree@us.af.mil**

Coast Guard 1-703-872-6626

www.uscg.mil/psd/de/crsc.asp

or e-mail at **Vinkle.J.Valentin@uscg.mil**

Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions – VA *presumes* that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. Certain time limits for diagnosis apply depending on the disease.

All veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability.

For more information or a list of diseases, visit **benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf**.

Home Loans and Tax Credits

Home Loan Guaranties – U.S. Federal Programs

Veterans Affairs loan guaranties may be made to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA home loans are usually handled by private lenders, with the VA “standing behind” the loan to guarantee a portion of it. Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live in the property.

A VA loan guaranty can be used to:

- Buy or build a home;
- Buy a residential condominium;
- Repair, alter, or improve a veteran’s home;
- Refinance an existing home loan;
- Buy a manufactured home and/or a lot;
- Install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements.

Service Eligibility

Applications under other than dishonorable conditions.

Service during:

WWII	09/16/40 to 07/25/47
Post WWII	07/26/47 to 06/26/50
Korean	06/27/50 to 01/31/55
Post Korean	02/01/55 to 08/04/64
Vietnam	08/05/64 to 05/07/75; or beginning 02/28/61 for veterans who served in Republic of Vietnam
Post Vietnam	05/8/75 to 08/1/90
Persian Gulf Era	08/02/90 to the present

If service was between September 8, 1980 (October 16, 1981, for officers) and August 1, 1990, veterans must generally complete

24 months of continuous active duty service or the full period (at least 181 days) for which they were called or ordered to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable (“24-month rule”).

Veterans who served fewer than 181 days may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

Veterans of the Gulf War era must generally complete 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period (at least 90 days) for which they were called to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Exceptions are allowed if the veteran completed at least 90 days of active duty but was discharged earlier than 24 months for:

- hardship;
- the convenience of the government;
- reduction-in-force;
- certain medical conditions; or
- service-connected disability.

Reservists and National Guard members are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served 6 years and have 90 days of active service, and received an honorable discharge.

Until the Gulf War era is ended, persons on active duty are eligible after serving 90 continuous days.

A funding fee must be paid to VA unless the veteran is exempt from such a fee because he or she receives VA disability compensation. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included in the loan.

VA Assistance to Veterans in Default:

VA urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to

explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers do not want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran's specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan
- Special Forbearance
- Loan Modification
- Short Sale
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure
- Additional time to arrange a private sale.

If the loan servicer is unable to help, the VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and a special servicing center who take an active role exploring all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with **VA-guaranteed home loans** can call **1-877-827-3702** to reach the nearest VA office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan. Veterans with non-VA-guaranteed loans may also call this number. However, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on a non-VA-guaranteed borrower's behalf.

Veterans may be able to refinance a non-VA-guaranteed loan with a VA-guaranteed loan which may be helpful in situations where the veteran is in risk of defaulting. Finally, VA warns homeowners behind in their payments to be careful about accepting help from strangers. Please contact your mortgage lender or the Loan Guaranty Division for assistance.

Specially Adapted Homes

VA has two grants available for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to assist in either building a new specially adapted home, adapting a home they already own, or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability requirements. Eligible veterans may receive up to three grants, the sum total not to exceed the maximum dollar amount. The maximum dollar amount for the SAH grant is \$73,768 and for the SHA grant is \$14,754 for fiscal year 2016. For more information on the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant or the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant e-mail **sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov** or call **1-877-827-3702**.



State of Michigan Benefits

Tax Benefits

The **Home Heating Credit** is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can be a rented apartment or a mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park. Qualified disabled veterans or their spouses generally are eligible for an increased credit. Applications for the Home Heating Credit are accepted from mid to late January through September 30 of each year.

The **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit** is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident for at least six months during the tax year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a house or apartment in the state. Taxpayers are not eligible for this tax credit if their household income is more than \$50,000 or the taxable value of their home is greater than \$135,000. Some veterans are eligible for an increased credit (see MI-1040CR-2). Homestead Property Tax Credit forms must be filed by the time state income tax forms are due each April. The tax form, MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR, can be found online at www.michigan.gov/treasury/. For property tax matters, call **517-636-4486** or **517-373-3200**.

The **Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption** allows certain honorably discharged, disabled veterans (or their surviving unremarried spouses) to apply for an exemption for their homestead from property taxation. To qualify, a veteran must meet one of these three qualification categories:

- The disabled veteran must have been determined by the United States VA to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate, or
- The disabled veteran must have received a certificate from the United States VA, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing, or
- The disabled veteran must have been rated by the United States VA as unemployable.

A qualified veteran must submit an affidavit and a certificate from the VA confirming the monetary assistance for specially adapted housing. Contact your township supervisor or other assessing officer for further information and deadlines.

Department of Treasury (Rev. 07-15), Page 1 of 3			Issued under authority of Public Act 2		
MICHIGAN Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim MI-1040CR					
print in blue or black ink. Print numbers like this: 0123456789 - NOT like this: 0 1 4 7					
1. First Name	M.I.	Last Name	2. Filer's Full Social Security No. (E		
Return, Spouse's First Name	M.I.	Last Name	3. Spouse's Full Social Security No		
Address (Number, Street, P.O. Box). If using a P.O. Box, you must complete line 45.			4. School District Code (5 digits - s		
own	State	ZIP Code			
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Age 65 or older; or an unremarried spouse of a person who was 65 or older at the time of death. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Deaf, blind, hemiplegic, paraplegic totally and permanently disabled.					
5 FILING STATUS:		7. 2015 RESIDENCY STATUS:		*If you checked box "c," enter dates of Michigan	

**Contact the
Michigan Department of Treasury
for Further Information
on the Homestead Property Tax Credit.**

Life Insurance

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Active duty members and reservists of uniformed services are automatically insured for \$400,000 under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Also available is traumatic injury group life insurance and family coverage.

At the time of separation from service, SGLI can be converted to either Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or a commercial plan through participating companies. You must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If you submit your application within 240 days after discharge (for those discharged on or after November 1, 2012) or within 120 days after discharge (for those discharged before November 1, 2012), you do not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

Once enrolled in VGLI, policyholders have an opportunity to increase their VGLI coverage by \$25,000, once every 5 years, up to the maximum \$400,000 until age 60.

Monthly premium rates for VGLI can be found at: www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli_rates_new.asp.

Service members who are totally disabled at the time of separation are eligible for free SGLI Disability Extension of up to two years. They must apply to the Office of Service members' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI).

Those covered under the SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI, subject to premium payments, at the end of their extension period. VGLI is convertible at any time to a permanent plan policy with any participating commercial insurance company.

Spousal and dependent coverage cannot at present be carried over into the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program; however, spouses have the option of converting their coverage to a private life insurance policy with a participating company within 120 days of the service member leaving active duty or if the service member drops the primary SGLI coverage.

Apply for VGLI through eBenefits or by completing and mailing form SGLV 8714, available at this link: www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/forms/8714.htm.

Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)

S-DVI provides life insurance coverage to veterans whom VA has granted service connection for a new disability within the last two years. Totally disabled veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional insurance up to \$10,000. Veterans must be in good health, other than the service-connected disability. In addition, eligible veterans had to have left service after April 24, 1951 and apply for additional coverage within two years of approval of a new service-connected disability.

Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums and additional supplemental insurance coverage of up to \$30,000. However, premiums cannot be waived on the additional supplemental insurance. To be eligible for this type of supplemental insurance, veterans must be under age 65, be eligible for a waiver of premiums due to total disability, and apply for additional insurance within one year from the date of notification of waiver approval on the S-DVI policy.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

The maximum amount of mortgage life insurance available to severely disabled veterans granted a specially adapted housing grant is \$200,000. Protection is automatic when the veteran submits required information and assuming he/she does not decline coverage. Coverage terminates when the mortgage is paid off.

If a mortgage is disposed of, VMLI may be obtained on the mortgage of another home.

Payment is to the current mortgage lender.

Assistance With Government Life Insurance Programs

Call the **VA Insurance Center** toll-free **1-800-669-8477** or visit **www.insurance.va.gov**. For VGLI call **1-800-419-1473**. For all other VA life insurance programs call **1-800-669-8477**. Specialists are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern Time, to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

If the insurance policy number is unknown, send the veteran's VA file number, date of birth, Social Security number, military serial number or military service branch and dates of service to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Insurance Center
P.O. Box 42954
Philadelphia, PA 19101



Dependent and Survivor Benefits

Burial Benefits

Headstones and Markers

Veterans and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans or service members who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (for marked or unmarked graves) or furnish a medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker.

Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery.

Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure that the government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

To apply, mail a completed VA Form 40-1330, along with a copy of the veteran's military service discharge document and death certificate to:

Memorial Programs Service (41B)

Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903
or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143**.

[Do not send original discharge documents, as they will not be returned.]

For more information and instructions, visit **www.cem.va.gov**.

Presidential Memorial Certificates

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates in person at

any VA regional office or by mailing a completed VA Form 40-0247 to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)

National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903
or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143**.

There is no time limit for requesting these certificates, but requests should include a copy, not the original, of the deceased veteran's discharge document and clearly indicate to what address the certificate should be sent.

Additional information can be found at **www.cem.va.gov**.

Burial Flags

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951. Also eligible for a burial flag are veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserves or National Guard, or would have been entitled if over age 60; and members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

Additional information and VA Form 27-2008 can be found at **www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp**.

Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, the Department of Defense (DoD) will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps."

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number (**1-877-MIL-HONR**) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. For more information, visit **www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh**.

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA. In some instances, VA also will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased that has available gravesites. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation or would have been entitled to compensation if they weren't receiving military retirement pay. There is a 2-year time limit.

VA will pay a plot allowance of up to \$747 when a veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction if the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the veteran was not receiving military retired pay; or the veteran died in a VA facility.

For information on monetary benefits, call **1-800-827-1000**. Additional information about burial and memorial benefits may be obtained at any **VA National Cemetery**, regional office, or at **www.cem.va.gov**. To check on the status of an application for a headstone or marker, call **1-800-697-6947**.

Burial in VA National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty), and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the

National Cemetery Scheduling Office or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired. VA does not normally conduct burials on weekends. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made before 1973 by the Department of the Army.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has two national cemeteries in Michigan:



Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI 49012
Phone: **269-731-4164**
Fax: **269-731-2428**

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly, MI 48442
Phone: **248-328-0386**
or **1-866-348-8603**
Fax: **248-328-0612**

State Veterans' Burial Expenses

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for \$300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – U.S. Federal Benefits

Survivors Pension

VA provides pension benefits to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

Spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have

had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or if an officer October 16, 1981. If the veteran died in service, but not in the line of duty, survivors pension may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable service.

Children who become incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for a survivors pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child's income exceeds the applicable limit.

Survivors pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person's income to a level established by law. The payment is reduced by the annual income from other sources such as Social Security. The payment may be increased if the recipient has unreimbursed medical expenses that can be deducted from countable income.

To apply, download and complete VA Form 21-534EZ, "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" and mail to the Detroit Regional Benefit Office, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, 48226.

The form and additional information can be found at: www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

For a survivor to be eligible for **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**, the veteran's death must have resulted from one of the following causes:

- An injury or disease deemed to be related to military service, or
- A nonservice-related injury or disease, but the veteran was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling,
 - For at least 10 years immediately before death, or

- Since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
- For at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Payments will be offset by any amount received from judicial proceedings brought on by the veteran's death. The discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Surviving spouses must meet certain eligibility requirements also. To apply, complete VA Form 21-534 or visit the Detroit Benefits office located at 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, or call **1-800-827-1000**.

Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits

Veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for a VA pension, DIC, or survivors pension may also be eligible for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. To apply for these benefits, send evidence to the Milwaukee VA Pension Center validating the need for aid and attendance or housebound care. The request should include information as to whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.

The **Milwaukee VA Pension Center** mailing address is:

P.O. Box 342000
Milwaukee, WI 53234-9907



Financial Emergencies & Veterans Resources

Programs – State of Michigan

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under honorable conditions. The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments, or insurance or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

Contact the **Veterans Trust Fund** at **517-284-5299** or your County Veterans Affairs Office (see page 37). Information is also available online at **www.MichiganVeterans.com**.

State of Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (see county contacts on page 38) provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills, help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may also be provided.

Soldiers Relief Commission

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance.

Contact a **County Veterans Service Officer** at **www.michiganveterans.com/Home/** **Benefit-Counselors** for assistance. See page 39 for phone numbers of county officers.

You may also consult your local phone book for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs.

Additional State Benefits

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

As of March 2013, fees for fishing and hunting licenses will be waived for disabled veterans. Only licenses that do not require a lottery can be obtained free of charge. Proof of eligibility must be presented at time of purchase and carried when hunting or fishing. Disabled hunters are those who have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service for a disability other than blindness.



State ID and Drivers Licenses.

Honorably discharged veterans may request their drivers license or state ID card to include a special veteran designation. This will allow veterans to take advantage of many discounts and services available to them that require proof of military service.



Michigan National Guard and Michigan-Based Active Military

Many veterans continue to serve in the Michigan National Guard. If you are a member of the National Guard, there are resources and information focused on your unique needs.

The National Guard has established Family Assistance Centers (FAC) and Wing Coordinators (WC) across the state to provide National Guard members or active duty military members stationed in Michigan, and their families, a point of contact when the family's soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman is deployed.

Each FAC or WC will act as a call center for military families for a large scope of issues. Some personal issues may require counseling and referral to an area Chaplain, legal matters may require reference to a military Judge Advocate General, and military pay problems require help from the military pay section at the State Headquarters.

These call centers may also receive a variety of family calls and questions that relate to insurance, financial debt, or a variety of maintenance issues.

Michigan National Guard Family Fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience financial difficulties with temporary emergency financial assistance, and to fund programs and training to maintain and improve the quality of life of our Michigan National Guard families. The fund provides a grant up to \$500 to soldiers and airmen and their family members who encounter financial hardships.

What constitutes a need? Emergency loss of income through activation for military duty; inability to maintain employment due to injury, sudden illness, or job loss; unexpected medical expenses; pay problems; or the accumulation of legitimate bills (e.g., rent, mortgage, electric, oil, gas, etc.). Also included is the inability to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical bills, and transportation due to unforeseen circumstances.

An application must be submitted with the necessary documentation. For further information on the National Guard Family Fund Program or to identify the FAC or WC closest to you, contact:

minationalguard.com/familyprograms, or
JFHQ - Family Program Office
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: **517-481-9893**
Toll-Free: **1-800-653-2645**
Fax: **517-481-8150**



Army Strong Community Center

The ASCC supports all branches of the military, veterans, retirees and their families by working one-on-one through every situation until a resolution has been reached. The ASCC can help veterans with benefits and entitlements, web access, employment and resume assistance, emergency assistance, and community resources. Staff at the center is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Michigan has one ASCC located in Walker:

Dr. Mary Edwards

Walker Army Reserve Center

3870 Three Mile Road NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Phone: **616-735-4050**, extension 166 or 169

After-Hours Assistance (Fort Family Outreach Center): **1-866-345-8248**

Energy Assistance Programs

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides federal funds to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, visit the

Department of Health and Human Services at **www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance**.


Additional Resources

- **Army Emergency Relief**
www.aerhq.org
- **Air Force Aid Society**
www.afas.org
- **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**
www.nmcrs.org
- **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**
www.cgmahq.org

Within Local Communities:

- **American Red Cross**
www.redcross.org or
www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/veterans-services
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars**
(see page 40 for list)
- **The American Legion**
(see page 40 for list)

The **Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC)** may be able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. Visit the MACVC website at **www.macvc.net** for additional information.



Each organization has its own set of procedures to follow. Please contact them directly for their requirements.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives

Contact Information by County

1 Alcona	800-642-4838	43 Lake	800-642-4838
2 Alger	906-387-1635	44 Lapeer	810-667-0256
3 Allegan	269-673-0501	45 Leelanau	231-995-6070
4 Alpena	989-354-9671	46 Lenawee	517-264-5335
5 Antrim	231-533-8499	47 Livingston	800-642-4838
6 Arenac	517-284-5299	48 Luce	906-293-4890
7 Baraga	906-524-5454	49 Mackinac	906-643-9411
8 Barry	800-642-4838	50 Macomb	586-469-5315
9 Bay	800-642-4838	51 Manistee	231-398-3587
10 Benzie	231-995-6070	52 Marquette	906-485-1781
11 Berrien	269-983-7111, ext. 8510	53 Mason	800-642-4838
12 Branch	517-279-4322	54 Mecosta	231-592-0124
13 Calhoun	269-969-6734	55 Menominee	906-863-5691
14 Cass	269-445-4472	56 Midland	989-832-6843
15 Charlevoix	231-547-7220	57 Missaukee	231-839-7839
16 Cheboygan	231-627-8833	58 Monroe	800-642-4838
17 Chippewa	906-635-6370	59 Montcalm	800-642-4838
18 Clare	989-539-3273	60 Montmorency	989-785-8043
19 Clinton	517-887-4331	61 Muskegon	231-724-7143
20 Crawford	989-344-3861	62 Newaygo	231-689-7030
21 Delta	906-786-7228	63 Oakland	248-655-1250
22 Dickinson	906-774-2820	64 Oceana	800-642-4838
23 Eaton	517-543-3740	65 Ogemaw	989-345-5170
24 Emmet	231-348-1780	66 Ontonagon	906-884-6204
25 Genesee	810-257-3068	67 Osceola	800-642-4838
26 Gladwin	989-426-4891	68 Oscoda	989-786-0355
27 Gogebic	906-667-1110	69 Otsego	989-731-7576
28 Grand Traverse	231-995-6070	70 Ottawa	800-642-4838
29 Gratiot	517-284-5299	71 Presque Isle	989-734-0302
30 Hillsdale	517-437-3630	72 Roscommon	989-275-7697
31 Houghton	906-482-0102	73 Saginaw	989-793-9560
32 Huron	989-269-8911	74 Sanilac	810-648-0212
33 Ingham	517-887-4389	75 Schoolcraft	906-341-3669
34 Ionia	800-642-4838	76 Shiawassee	989-743-2231
35 Iosco	989-362-6571	77 St. Clair	810-989-6945
36 Iron	906-265-3819	78 St. Joseph	269-467-5557
37 Isabella	989-317-4093	79 Tuscola	989-673-8148
38 Jackson	517-788-4424	80 Van Buren	800-642-4838
39 Kalamazoo	269-373-5361	81 Washtenaw	800-642-4838
40 Kalkaska	231-258-3370	82 Wayne	313-224-5045
41 Kent	616-632-5722	83 Wexford	231-775-6654
42 Keweenaw	906-482-0102		

Visit www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors for more information.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Contact Information by County

1	Alcona	989-362-0300	43	Lake	231-745-8159
2	Alger.....	906-387-4440	44	Lapeer	810-667-0800
3	Allegan	269-673-7700	45	Leelanau.....	231-941-3900
4	Alpena	989-354-7200	46	Lenawee.....	517-264-6300
5	Antrim	231-533-8664	47	Livingston	517-548-0200
6	Arenac	989-846-5500	48	Luce	906-293-5144
7	Baraga	906-353-4700	49	Mackinac	906-643-9550
8	Barry.....	269-948-3200	50	Macomb	586-412-6100
9	Bay	989-895-2100	51	Manistee	231-723-8375
10	Benzie	231-882-1330	52	Marquette	906-228-9691
11	Berrien.....	269-934-2000	53	Mason	231-845-7391
12	Branch	517-279-4200	54	Mecosta	231-796-4300
13	Calhoun	269-966-1284	55	Menominee	906-863-9965
14	Cass	269-445-0200	56	Midland	989-835-7040
15	Charlevoix	231-348-1600	57	Missaukee	231-779-4500
16	Cheboygan	231-627-8500	58	Monroe	734-243-7200
17	Chippewa.....	906-635-4100	59	Montcalm	989-831-8400
18	Clare.....	989-539-4260	60	Montmorency	989-785-4218
19	Clinton	989-224-5500	61	Muskegon	231-733-3700
20	Crawford	989-348-7691	62	Newaygo	231-689-5500
21	Delta	906-786-5394	63	Oakland	248-975-5700
22	Dickinson	906-779-4100	64	Oceana.....	231-873-7251
23	Eaton	517-543-0860	65	Ogemaw.....	989-345-5135
24	Emmet	231-348-1600	66	Ontonagon	906-884-4951
25	Genesee.....	810-760-2200	67	Osceola	231-796-4300
26	Gladwin	989-426-3300	68	Oscoda.....	989-826-4000
27	Gogebic	906-663-6200	69	Otsego	989-732-1702
28	Grand Traverse	231-941-3900	70	Ottawa	616-394-7200
29	Gratiot	989-875-5181	71	Presque Isle	989-734-2108
30	Hillsdale.....	517-439-2200	72	Roscommon	989-275-5107
31	Houghton	906-482-0500	73	Saginaw	989-758-1100
32	Huron	989-269-9201	74	Sanilac	810-648-4420
33	Ingham.....	517-887-9400	75	Schoolcraft	906-341-2114
34	Ionia.....	616-527-5200	76	Shiawassee.....	989-725-3200
35	Iosco	989-362-0300	77	St. Clair.....	810-966-2000
36	Iron	906-265-9958	78	St. Joseph	269-467-1200
37	Isabella.....	989-772-8400	79	Tuscola.....	989-673-9100
38	Jackson	517-780-7400	80	Van Buren	269-621-2800
39	Kalamazoo.....	269-337-4900	81	Washtenaw.....	734-481-2000
40	Kalkaska.....	231-258-1200	82	Wayne.....	313-456-1000
41	Kent	616-248-1000	83	Wexford	231-779-4500
42	Keweenaw	906-337-3302			

Visit www.michigan.gov/mdhhs for more information.

County Veterans Service Officers

Contact Information by County

1 Alcona	989-724-9510	43 Lake	231-590-6200
2 Alger	906-387-1635	44 Lapeer	810-667-0256
3 Allegan	269-673-0501	45 Leelanau	231-995-6070
4 Alpena	989-354-9671	46 Lenawee	517-264-5335
5 Antrim	231-533-8499	47 Livingston	517-546-6338
6 Arenac	989-846-2111	48 Luce	906-293-4890
7 Baraga	906-524-5454	49 Mackinac	906-643-9411
8 Barry	269-945-1296	50 Macomb	586-469-5315
9 Bay	989-895-4190	51 Manistee	231-398-3587
10 Benzie	231-995-6070	52 Marquette	906-485-1781
11 Berrien	269-983-7111, ext. 8118 or 8224	53 Mason	231-590-6200
12 Branch	517-279-4322	54 Mecosta	231-592-0124
13 Calhoun	269-969-6735	55 Menominee	906-863-5691
14 Cass	269-445-4472	56 Midland	989-832-6843
15 Charlevoix	231-547-7220	57 Missaukee	231-839-7839
16 Cheboygan	231-627-8833	58 Monroe	734-240-3287
17 Chippewa	906-635-6370	59 Montcalm	989-831-7437
18 Clare	989-539-3273	60 Montmorency	989-785-8043
19 Clinton	517-887-4395	61 Muskegon	231-724-7143
20 Crawford	989-344-3861	62 Newaygo	231-689-7030
21 Delta	906-786-7228	63 Oakland	Pontiac Office 248-858-0785 Troy Office 248-655-1250
22 Dickinson	906-774-2820	64 Oceana	231-873-6834
23 Eaton	517-543-3740	65 Ogemaw	989-345-5170
24 Emmet	231-348-1783	66 Ontonagon	906-884-6204
25 Genesee	810-257-3068	67 Osceola	800-642-4838
26 Gladwin	989-426-4891	68 Oscoda	989-786-0355
27 Gogebic	906-667-1110	69 Otsego	989-731-7575
28 Grand Traverse	231-995-6070	70 Ottawa	616-393-8387
29 Gratiot	989-875-5258	71 Presque Isle	989-734-0302
30 Hillsdale	517-437-3630	72 Roscommon	989-275-7697
31 Houghton	906-482-0102	73 Saginaw	989-497-2500
32 Huron	989-269-8911	74 Sanilac	810-648-0212
33 Ingham	517-887-4395	75 Schoolcraft	906-341-3669
34 Ionia	616-775-1002	76 Shiawassee	989-743-2231
35 Iosco	989-362-6571	77 St. Clair	810-989-6945
36 Iron	906-265-3819	78 St. Joseph	269-467-5512 and 269-467-5557
37 Isabella	989-317-4093	79 Tuscola	989-673-8148
38 Jackson	517-788-4425	80 Van Buren	269-657-7376
39 Kalamazoo	269-373-5361	81 Washtenaw	734-973-4540
40 Kalkaska	231-258-3370	82 Wayne	313-224-5045
41 Kent	616-632-5722	83 Wexford	231-775-6654
42 Keweenaw	906-482-0102		

Visit www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors for more information.

Veterans Service Organizations

American Legion

1210 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-964-6640**

AMVETS

1227 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-471-3982**

Disabled American Veterans

1200 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-964-6595**

Marine Corps League

1232 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-964-6830**

Military Order of the Purple Heart

1226 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-964-6888**

Paralyzed Veterans of America

1233 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-471-3996**

Veterans of Foreign Wars

1215 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-964-6510**

Vietnam Veterans of America

1231 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: **313-961-9568**

NOTE: Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits.

Federal Agencies

Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530
Phone:
202-514-4609 (voice)
TTY: **202-514-0716**

U.S. Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training (USDOL/VET)

Victor Office Center, Suite 120
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-373-7094**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)

McNamara Building,
12th Floor
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226
Toll-Free: **1-800-827-1000**

State Agencies

Visit www.michigan.gov.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights

Detroit Executive Office

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600
3054 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: **313-456-3700**
Fax: **313-456-3791**

Lansing Office

Capitol Tower Building
110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: **517-241-6300**
Toll-Free: **1-800-482-3604**
Fax: **517-241-0546**
TTY: **517-241-1965**

Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600
3054 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202
VP: **313-437-7035**
Toll-Free Voice/TTY: **1-877-499-6232**
Fax: **517-241-3963**
E-mail: **DODDBHH@michigan.gov**

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

333 S. Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 30195
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-373-3740**
Michigan Relay Center at **711**
or **1-800-649-3777** and ask for
517-373-3740.

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Lewis Cass Building, Garden Level
320 S. Walnut Street
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: **517-335-3158**
Fax: **517-335-2751**
TDD: **517-335-3171**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services

201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 30010
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-335-0399**
Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**
TTY Toll-Free: **1-888-605-6722**

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Bureau of Services for Blind Persons

201 N. Washington Square
Victor Building, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-373-2062**
Fax: **517-335-5140**
Toll-Free: **1-800-292-4200**

Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Phoenix Building, 5th Floor
222 N. Washington Square
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

Michigan Department of Treasury

Treasury Building
430 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48922
Phone: **1-800-373-3200**
TTY: **1-800-649-3777 or 711**

Additional Resources

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, contact:

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20420

Phone: **1-800-827-1000**

TDD: **711**

www.va.gov

The Federal Benefits Booklet, 2016 edition, is available online at **www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp**. eReader editions are also available at this site.

The booklet is also available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST). Call toll-free **1-866-512-1800** or in the District of Columbia area **1-202-512-1800**. The GPO can be reached by e-mail at **contactcenter@gpo.gov**.



Helpful Phone Numbers:

Bereavement Counseling 1-202-461-6530

Education 1-888-442-4551

Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947

Health Care 1-877-222-8387

Homeless Veterans 1-877-424-3838

Home Loans 1-888-827-3702

Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477

Pension Management Center . . 1-877-294-6380

Special Health Issues 1-800-749-8387

Telecommunication Device

for the Deaf (TDD) 711

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255

Press 1

Women Veterans 1-855-829-6636

Forms, Documents:

VA Forms

www.va.gov/vaforms

U.S. Government Forms

www.usa.gov



DD-214 Lost Documents:

For service members whose home of record at the time of discharge from the military was Michigan or who elected to have their DD-214 sent to Michigan, DD-214 requests can be made through MVAA. Complete and submit a Request for Record of Active Military Service form online at: **www.michiganveterans.com/mvaa/media/Site-Documents/PDFs/Images/MVAA-DD214-Request-Form-11-2014.pdf** or call **1-800-MICH-VET**. MVAA will need the veteran's full name, date of birth, and social security number to search our database. Note that MVAA can only release certified copies to the veteran or next of kin after verification of identity.

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

Phoenix Building, 5th Floor

222 N. Washington Square

P.O. Box 30104

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

Discharge documents are also available from the National Personnel Records Center (PRC) online military personnel records systems. The electronic application can be accessed at **http://vetrecs.archives.gov**.

Helpful Links:

VA Home Page

www.va.gov

Education Benefits

www.gibill.va.gov

Health Care Eligibility

www.va.gov/healthbenefits

Returning Service Members

www.oefoif.va.gov

Home Loan Guaranty

www.homeloans.va.gov

Records

www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel

VA Benefit Payment Rates

www.benefits.va.gov/compensation

Mental Health

www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Life Insurance

www.insurance.va.gov

Women Veterans Health Care

www.womenshealth.va.gov

My HealtheVet

www.myhealth.va.gov

VA Fact Sheets

www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp#BM7

Michigan Veterans Benefits Site

www.michigan.gov/veterans

TRICARE

www.tricare.mil

Military OneSource

www.militaryonesource.mil

Department of Defense

www.defense.gov

Military Funeral Honors

www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh

Arlington National Cemetery

www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

Burial and Memorial Benefits

www.cem.va.gov



Employment Assistance Web Addresses:

Veteran Employment Services

www.mitalent.org/veteran

Veterans' Preference

www.fedshirevets.gov

Federal Government Job Openings

www.usajobs.gov

Department of Labor Employment and Training

www.dol.gov/vets

Returning Service Members

www.oefoif.va.gov

Business Assistance:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20420

Phone: **1-866-584-2344**

www.va.gov/OSDBU

Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center

www.sbdcmichigan.org

Of Interest to Veterans

Veteran Holidays

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is

now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis’ birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Flag Etiquette



Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions.

Flag Displayed Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union or blue field to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.

Flown at Half-Staff

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. “Half-staff” means the flag has been lowered to one-half the

distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstuffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

Flown on the Same Halyard With Non-National Flags

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

Suspended Over a Sidewalk

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

In a Parade With Other Flags

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right (that is, the flag's own right), or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

With Non-National Flags

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

With Other National Flags

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

With Another Flag Against a Wall From Crossed Staffs

The American flag should be on the right (the flag's own right which is the viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

Flag Displayed Indoors

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium

Custom – not the Flag Code – holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

Used to Cover a Casket

The American flag should be so placed on a casket that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

Other Than Being Flown From a Staff

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union to the left of the observer in the street). When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of Flag Code etiquette rules for display of the American Flag at the "Americanism" link at the **American Legion** website **www.legion.org**.

PL. 110-181 amended section 9, title 4, USC, to allow veterans to render the hand salute to the United States flag. The section reads: "During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart or, if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

State Policy for Flying American Flags at Half-Staff

State policy for displaying the United States flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the memory of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty is found in Executive Order 2013-10.

As recognized under Proclamation 2003-4, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff throughout the State of Michigan on a day designated by the Governor when a member of

the Michigan National Guard or a Michigan resident servicing as a member of the United States Armed Forces is killed in the line of duty.

When an order providing for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on a statewide basis is issued, Michigan residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations also are urged to display the flag at half-staff. Half-flag announcements can be found at this website: **www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577_28502-317770--,00.html**.

Flag Disposal

The **United States Flag Code** provides:

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

Many veterans service organizations conduct ceremonies for the destruction of unserviceable flags by burning. Such ceremonies may be done on June 14, Flag Day, to mark the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. Some local governments may also conduct these ceremonies.

In practice, for individuals who wish to destroy a flag in poor condition, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.



Michigan Congressional Delegation – 114th Congress

United States Senate

Like every state, Michigan has two Senators in the United States Senate: **Gary Peters** and **Debbie Stabenow**. You will find contact information for Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters at the Senate website: **www.senate.gov**

Select “Senators”. Select “Michigan” from the “Find Your Senators” drop-down box and you will get the phone number and address for the Senator as well as a link to contact the Senator via the web.

My United States Senators contact information:

United States House of Representatives

Michigan currently has 14 Representatives in the United States House of Representatives. This number is determined by our population and may be adjusted following each decennial census.

You may obtain contact information about our 14 United States Representatives at the House of Representatives website: **www.house.gov/**

By entering your zip code, and clicking Go, you will be provided with your Representative’s name and contact information.

My United States Representative:

Michigan Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Contact information for the Governor may be found at: **www.michigan.gov/gov**

Contact information for the Lieutenant Governor may be found at: **www.michigan.gov/lsgov**

Michigan State Senate

The Michigan State Senate is composed of 38 State Senators whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Senator at the State Senate website: **www.senate.michigan.gov**

Click the “Senators” link on far right to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Senator.

My State Senator: _____

Michigan House of Representatives

The Michigan House of Representatives is composed of 110 State Representatives whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Representative at the State House of Representatives website: **www.house.mi.gov**

Click the “Representatives” link at the top of the page for access to the “Find a Representative” feature or the clickable map to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Representative.

My State Representative: _____

Letters to any of the State Senators or State Representatives may be addressed:

The Honorable (name of senator)

State Senator

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable (name of representative)

State Representative

State Capitol

P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Senate or House Committee

You may wish to contact State Senators or State Representatives on the committee that is designated to review proposed legislation regarding veterans affairs. The name of this committee may change over time. You may find the current name of the committee and the members of the committee as follows.

State Senate committee page:

www.senate.michigan.gov/committee.html

State House of Representatives committee page:

www.house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/committee.aspx



Notes

*The information in this publication is available,
upon request, in an alternative, accessible format.*



For more information regarding the Michigan Legislature,
scan this QR code with your smartphone.